

Message Text

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11

ORIGIN ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-11 L-03 AGR-20 CEA-02 CIAE-00

COME-00 DODE-00 FRB-03 H-03 INR-11 INT-08 LAB-06

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 AID-20 CIEP-03 SS-20

STR-08 TAR-02 TRSE-00 USIA-15 PRS-01 SP-03 OMB-01

SWF-02 FEA-02 /177 R

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APPROVED BY ARA/CAR:JRBURKE

EB/OT:CSCHMIDT (DRAFT)

EB/OT/GCP:DDUNFORD (DRAFT)

L/ARA:MSAWYER (DRAFT)

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R 232316Z P 74

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY SANTO DOMINGO

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, DR

SUBJECT: DOMINICAN REPUBLIC TRADE DIFFICULTIES WITH
PUERTO RICO

REF: SANTO DOMINGO 3667

1. PROBLEM CREATED OVER PUERTO RICO-DOMINICAN REPUBLIC
TRADE AGREEMENT, WHICH MAY HAVE BEEN CONCLUDED AS RECENTLY
AS 1971, HAS BEEN TROUBLESOME BUT LARGELY IGNORED UP TO
NOW SINCE HERNANDEZ COLON GOVT EITHER DID NOT HAVE BACK-
GROUND ON AGREEMENT OR SOUGHT TO DOWNPLAY IT AND DOMINICANS
HAVE NOT CHOSEN UNTIL RECENTLY TO RAISE MATTER WITH USG.
IN RESPONSE TO INTEREST EXPRESSED BY DOMINICANS, WE ARE
UNDERTAKING CAREFUL EXAMINATION OF NATURE OF PUERTO RICAN-
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DOMINICAN TRADE AGREEMENT AND AUTHORITY FOR ITS CONCLUSION.
WE HAVE THE FOLLOWING PRELIMINARY COMMENTS.

2. TO BEST OF OUR KNOWLEDGE, CONTRARY TO STATEMENT IN
PARA 1 OF REFTEL, USG DID NOT AUTHORIZE PUERTO RICO TO
CONCLUDE TRADE AGREEMENT WITH DOMINICAN REPUBLIC, AT LEAST
NOT BY THE 1967 JOINT STATEMENT. JOINT STATEMENT BY
PRESIDENTS JOHNSON AND BALAGUER AND PUERTO RICAN GOVERNOR
SANCHEZ-VILELLA ON OCTOBER 18, 1967 ANNOUNCED APPOINTMENT
OF DOMINICAN REPUBLIC-PUERTO RICAN ECONOMIC COMMISSION

"TO DEVELOP CLOSER AND MUTUALLY BENEFICIAL ECONOMIC
RELATIONS BETWEEN THEIR PEOPLES." COMMISSION WAS TO BE
COMPOSED OF REPRESENTATIVES "DIRECTLY CONCERNED WITH THE
DEVELOPMENT AND COORDINATION OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS."

3. SEARCH OF DEPT FILES HAS NOT REVEALED ANY LATER
DOCUMENT THAT PLAINLY AUTHORIZED PUERTO RICO TO NEGOTIATE
TRADE AGREEMENT. INFORMAL INQUIRY MADE TO PUERTO RICAN
STATE DEPT LAST DECEMBER FAILED TO ELICIT SPECIFIC
RESPONSE ON THIS POINT.

4. IN AD HOC ADVISORY GROUP ON PUERTO RICO, PUERTO
RICANS HAVE EXPRESSED DESIRE TO BECOME INVOLVED IN TARIFF
POLICY AND EXTERNAL TRADE MATTERS, SO THAT SUBJECT IS
SENSITIVE ONE IN PUERTO RICO.

5. WE AGREE THAT WHEN AMBASSADOR NEXT VISITS PUERTO RICO
IT WOULD BE USEFUL TO RAISE THIS PROBLEM WITH GOVERNOR
AND OTHER OFFICIALS ON BASIS OF GOVERNOR'S RECENT FORTH-
COMING STATEMENT AT BALAGUER INAUGURATION. IN ADDITION
TO LEARNING WHAT STEPS PUERTO RICO IS CONTEMPLATING TO
RESOLVE PROBLEM WITH DOMINICANS, IT WOULD BE DESIRABLE
TO OBTAIN COMMONWEALTH GOVERNMENT'S VIEW OF AUTHORITY
IT HAD TO ENTER INTO AGREEMENT IN FIRST PLACE. DEPT
WOULD ALSO APPRECIATE EMBASSY'S HELP IN RECEIVING FROM
DOMINICANS OR PUERTO RICANS TEXT OF THEIR TRADE AGREEMENT.

6. IN ADDITION TO ABOVE, EMBASSY REQUESTED AT ITS DIS-
CRETION TO MAKE CERTAIN THAT FERNANDO PERICHE IS AWARE
THAT WE ARE ACTIVELY EXPLORING THIS MATTER IN RESPONSE
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TO HIS REQUEST TO DEPT OFFICERS ON AUGUST 23. INGERSOLL

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NNN

*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

Message Attributes

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Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
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Draft Date: 23 SEP 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
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Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: izenbei0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Drafter: GBHIGH/KK
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30 JUN 2005

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